

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-10, 13 and 14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3, 4, 6 and 11 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claim 14 is amended to depend from independent claim 10. Thus, no new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of receipt and consideration of the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 9, 2004.

II. Allowed/Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1, 2, 5, 7-10 and 13. Applicants submit that as claim 14 is amended to depend from allowed claim 10, that claim 14 is also in condition for allowance.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 3, 4, 6, 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,317,112 to Handschy. As claims 3, 4, 6 and 11 are canceled the rejection of those claims is moot. Additionally, as claim 14 is amended to depend from allowed claim 10, Applicants submit that claim 14 is allowable over the Handschy reference.

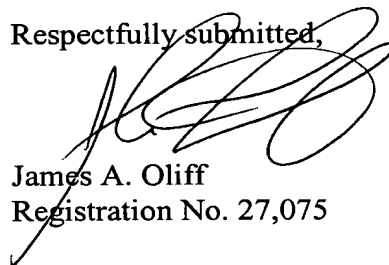
As only allowable subject matter is pending in this application, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 3, 4, 6, 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 5, 7-10, 13 and 14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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